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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5876th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 April 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its serious concern at the recent confrontations between the Palipehutu-FNL and the National Defence Forces of Burundi, following attacks by the Palipehutu-FNL, and the resulting loss of lives.

"The Security Council condemns the use of violence, and calls again on the two parties to scrupulously respect the ceasefire concluded on 7 September 2006. It urges the Palipehutu-FNL to return immediately and without preconditions to the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and calls on both parties to resume their dialogue to overcome the obstacles that hinder the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and delay the conclusion of the peace process in Burundi.

"The Security Council reiterates its support for the Regional Initiative, the South-African Facilitation and other partners of Burundi, and encourages them to sustain their commitment to bring the parties to overcome the current crisis and implement the Programme of Action adopted in Cape Town on 22 and 23 February 2008. It supports a proactive role of the Political Directorate in that regard.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to play a robust political role in support of the peace process and to keep the Council closely informed of developments in Burundi, including in the context of his reports to the Security Council on the United Nations Integrated Office (BINUB).

"The Security Council stresses that any attempt to jeopardize peace in Burundi through violent means is unacceptable, and expresses its intention to consider possible additional measures, as appropriate, in support of peace and stability in Burundi."

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